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### Obey in CHIPPEWA FALLS for update on RAIL LINE PROJECT

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Chippewa Falls today for a briefing by the Wisconsin West Rail Transit Authority (WWRTA) on how they plan to use the \$2.45 million in federal funds that Obey secured last year to help purchase and rehabilitate rail lines in Chippewa and Barron Counties.

"Decent transportation outlets are crucial to business location and job creation. Rail is a vital link to the national transportation system for many area businesses, so I was pleased to be able to help out when the counties approached me with their plan to preserve our local rail service," said Obey. "This is a great example of federal, state, and local government working together with local businesses for the economic good of the region."

"For what we spend on the war in Iraq, we could pay for about ten of this kind of project every hour," Obey added. "That just goes to show you how much we could be doing here at home if we weren't stuck in this misbegotten war."

WWRTA is a joint Authority of Chippewa and Barron Counties that was formed in 2001 to preserve and strengthen rail service in the counties. The federal funds are intended to help the Authority move forward with a multi-phase plan to upgrade to 25mph the roughly 50 miles of existing track in Chippewa and Barron County.

Many local and regional businesses, such as The Turkey Store, Bloomer Plastics, and ABC Truss, require access to high quality competitively priced transportation to receive raw materials and to ship their finished products. The rail improvement initiative will help ensure that they continue to have access to the transportation they need.

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